

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
16 December 2004 (16.12.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/109057 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **E21B 43/01**,
C09K 5/06, F16L 59/14, E21B 17/01

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/002349

(22) International Filing Date: 3 June 2004 (03.06.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0312781.8 4 June 2003 (04.06.2003) GB

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

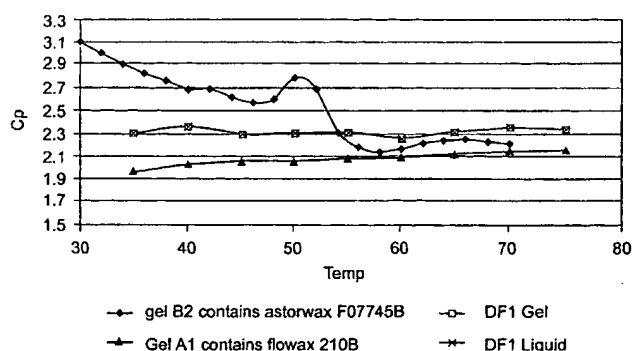
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD



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(57) Abstract: A method of insulating pipeline bundles used in recovering hydrocarbons from wells is disclosed. A (5) polymeric substance, such as an orthophosphate ester (6) according to formula I, is injected into the annulus (7) between a carrier pipe and the hydrocarbon conveying 8 tubulars. A ferric salt, such as ferric sulphate, (9) is added as a gelling agent. An alternative embodiment uses (4)-(4-ormylphenylethenyl)-(1)-ethylpyridinium methosulphonate (SbQ) cross linked with polyvinyl alcohol in acidic conditions to form a gel. The mixture results in a gel having a dynamic viscosity of greater than (1000) PaS. The gel insulates the inner hydrocarbon-conveying tubulars from the surrounding seawater thus helping to maintain the relatively high temperature therewithin. This in turn reduces the likelihood for chemicals, such as hydrates, to be precipitated out of the oil phase.